





# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1864.

**MISSING.**  
The following copies of our Weekly Journal are missing from our files: Any person having them will confer a favor by sending them to us, for which we will pay 50 cents for two copies of each date.  
October 19th, 1863—2 copies.  
March 19th, 1864—2 copies.  
25th, 1863—2 copies.

The fire on Saturday night, about 9 o'clock, broke out in the carriage factory carried on by S. H. Hooper, a colored man, on Market street, corner of Seventh. The buildings on the lot, together with the principal portion of their contents, amongst them a valuable carriage belonging to Mr. J. M. C. Hooper, were consumed. We have not heard the amount of loss sustained. The buildings were not worth much. They were owned by J. M. C. Hooper.

The fire last night occurred in a house near the wharf, and near Mr. Van Dusen's turpentine distillery, and occupied many carriages. The roof only was partially burned, and caused the damage was light.

Fire at Warrington. We have by passengers on the Wilmington & Warrington that a fire broke out yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the shops on the lot occupied by Mr. A. A. Hooper at Warrington, D. C. The shops and Mr. A. A. Hooper's house, together with Mr. J. M. C. Hooper's carriage, were consumed. We have not heard the amount of loss sustained. The buildings were not worth much. They were owned by J. M. C. Hooper.

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likely to die. He was told that if he did not repeat he would go to hell. "Many people go to hell," was the question. "Yes, a great many." "And they stand it?" "Yes, they stand it." "All right," said the hardened man, "what say you else can stand it, can?" and forthwith went to sleep, perfectly unconcerned. Sure enough he got well.

It is one of the wise dispositions of Providence that the human mind should possess a vast amount of elasticity, and that human circumstances should exhibit an unbounded power of reaction against misfortune. The Confederacy is affording proof of both these facts. The public mind has accepted the situation, and is prepared to make the best of it, and if, possible, out of the nettle danger to pluck the flower safety. The enemy has been deprived of the fruits which he hoped to reap from his advantages of last November; and, if he has not been driven back, his progress has been effectively stayed. If LONGSTREET has not taken Knoxville, still his army is safe, and if GRANT has Lookout Mountain, still he is no nearer to Atlanta.

Another "Ninety days' draft" will have to be drawn, but not exactly in the sense in which that expression has heretofore been used. Not the closing, but the resumption of actual hostilities is proposed for ninety more days, and upon the plans devised and the preparations made during these ninety days may depend the fate of the campaign, and, to a great extent, of the war. Away from river courses, and the enemy must now have them or fall back—away from river courses nothing has in any year yet been done before the first of May, nor even that; and there is no reason to look for any change this spring. Thus there are three months more to go upon before the ball opens in earnest, and the country looks forward to that opening with none less hope and confidence because they find the names of JOHNSON and BRADSHAW, the first great leaders of the Confederate army, in the list of those who are to be drafted. Of course this does not in any way detract from General Lee, for that no one could or would attempt.

"We must watch and wait," the best we can, as in the absence of definite information we had all better do; we must confess that, although not unduly confident, yet like the looks of things better than we have done for some time past.

But all must be aware that if the spirit of the Confederacy rises, and very properly and justly rises, triumphantly superior to the depressing circumstances that had for a time overwhelmed it, the spirit of the enemy has gathered strength and confidence from a contemplation of their own undoubted successes, and an exaggerated idea of our losses and weakness. They will be anxious to rush upon us almost at once, with the view of giving the coup de grace to "this wretched rebellion," and of taking up their oppressed "Ninety days' draft." We must be aware that if we are prepared, so are they, and they will prepare, whether we prepare or not. We note as then if we neglect any remedy in which wisdom may suggest, or omit any effort to which patriotism may prompt.

But will this campaign end the war? Will, we hope so, indeed we hope so, but who can say? Who knows but God? Once upon a time, we were all strong in predictions, and we gave them to the world in periods more or less accurately rounded, according to our powers of writing or talking. We do not now, the most elegant essays came much nearer the truth than the most simple sayings. We know that people who claim more wisdom than we could ever dream of aspiring to, and who "have that claim allowed," are again indulging in predictions of a grand wind up and general arrangement of the year. We trust these gentlemen are right. Unfortunately we cannot quite see the thing so plainly. Somehow we rather like the present aspect of things. The people, as it were, stripped for the fight, and while, as will always be the case, some show symptoms of letting down, upon the whole, we seem determined to rise superior to any fate, and they will do so. But we confess ourselves unable to say, through how much or how little tribulation the country will have to pass before the skies brighten and all is clear again.

**This Year.**  
The war this year is evidently to be prosecuted with more reluctance and with views to a more definite result than ever before since the commencement of hostilities. More comprehensive and more daring combinations are to mark the military proceedings of 1864, than did those of the three former years, and in many leading particulars even the theatre of war itself will probably be changed.

Murders floating on the air—the indistinct shadows which coming events will almost always cast before them, point to the transference of the main scene of operations in the Atlantic States to North Carolina. There is no definite information that we know of, and yet it is believed that MEADE is coming to Newbury, and if MEADE, then MEADE's forces, and if MEADE's forces, why of course Confederate forces may be expected to meet him and them.

Circumstances point to this change of scene as probable. It affords the enemy a chance of outwitting the campaign almost immediately, and continuing it almost indefinitely, so far as interruption from the weather is concerned, for we suppose that no frosts or snows ever occur in Eastern North Carolina sufficient to interfere with the movements of an army.

We will not dwell upon what must already have suggested itself, namely, the suspicion that this anticipated change of base to this State may have been partly invited by the untimely illness and we fear, imminent moments away from some politician in North Carolina, looking to a second secession of the State—a secession from the Confederacy. We say we will not dwell upon so painful a subject. Let us not, for any sake, invite the well as it were into our own bowels.

If the thing does come, of which of course there are as yet only the promissory beginnings, let us not let it be. Let us at least have the common sense and common patriotism rather to devote all we have and all we are, to our own defence and to the defence of our country. It comes to that, and the issue may as well be stated, so that it may be fairly met. If we show one shadow of wavering—if we keep up any of our foolish divisions among ourselves—if we hold back ought to the strength which it is in our power to give to our country—if we persevere in speculating or in seeking details as means of escape from duty, we are simply trying ourselves—cutting our own throats—while we chuckle at the ingenuity displayed in cheating somebody else out of the knife with which to do the deed.

But whether the leading campaign be in North Carolina or elsewhere, it is evident that this year is to be the year of the war, and that now, if ever, our people must rise superior to all considerations but those of their country, for all now depends upon themselves—they can be independent. It only rests with themselves. But they cannot be so without zeal, diligence, patriotism, self-sacrifice; and these, too, of no merely negative character.

It ought to be borne in mind that there is but one of two alternatives—Independence or ruin. If honor—if common manhood would permit the people of North Carolina, or of any other part of the South, to harbor in its mind the idea of submission, they ought to understand that by doing so they yield up tamely their rights, their properties and their institutions. Surely even the enemy themselves would be forced to despise any who would come to them now, as deserters from a cause in which they had joined—as traitors to those

by whose side they had ranged themselves. The enemy might like the traitors, but could not, despite the traitors. They would find that they had sold themselves cheaply indeed.

But our people will, in the future, as in the past, be true to themselves; only with this difference, that, feeling the necessity for laying aside all enmities, they must, from now on, make the war—the achievement of independence—the security of their liberties, institutions and property, the business—the only business, until that is quieted.

Our people acting upon this principle cannot fail to attain the object aimed at. Acting upon a lower principle, or upon no principle at all save personal aggrandizement, can they expect to accomplish any high and honorable object? Not deserving success, can they reasonably hope to attain it?

Now let us, in North Carolina and elsewhere, stop wrangling and jangling. The time is coming fast when "thine" must put all things to the test. Let that test be passed through in safety and honor, and we can fix upon our own little matters at leisure afterwards.

The English spectators of the conflict now going on in the States of North America, take, we think, a more correct view of the matter than our own people at home. By all means they are right in attributing to the people of the Northern States a greater amount of faith than the Confederates have shown themselves possessed of. The idea of "manifest destiny" has long been at the North not simply a mere war-cry, but has grown, if not into a principle, at least into a fixed conviction. They have persuaded themselves that they are the (political) saints of the earth to whom, under some form or shape, the sole government of the Western Hemisphere has already been given, and that it only requires to be reduced into possession; hence they regard anything that even threatens to dispel their dream, or to oppose any obstacles to their definite extension, or to the unrestrained exercise of the freedom of their own will, as a thing not only not to be tolerated, but not even to be thought of. Hardly think that the populations still calling themselves the United States have once seriously allowed themselves to take in consideration the contingency of final separation, with its resulting effect upon themselves and their flag, after the desperate and reckless expenditures in which they have engaged, in their efforts to prevent it. This unthinking—almost fanatical faith has buoyed up the credit of the Washington Government, and kept its issues valid under circumstances which otherwise would admit of no explanation. The Washington Government has had no credit abroad, and has been unable to float off any of its bonds in any European market.

On the contrary, the Confederacy, with exchangeable positions—the basis of credit—greater than those of any other country and far exceeding those of the Northern States, has seen the means of its Government sink in value to a painful and alarming extent. The people of the South, still perhaps permeated by ideas of superstitious veneration for or dread of the "manifest destiny" of the Union they have dissolved, have, by their own course, shown their distrust in their own destiny, and in the destiny of the Confederation which they themselves have formed. From all this it comes, we think, that Mr. MEMPHIS's financial career, as compared with that of Mr. CUBAN, has been, comparatively speaking, a failure.

In truth there is no sort of ground for one-tenth the panic that has been shown about the currency, nor for a resort to one-tenth of the desperate expedients that have been suggested for the restoration of our affairs, military and financial. The resources of the Confederacy do not begin to be exhausted. Its strength is not impaired. Its elements of wealth remain substantially intact. Nothing but careless panic can lead any important portion of the people of the Confederate States to indulge in gloomy valuations, calculated to seriously endanger the cause at which their all is engaged.

It is time to look at this thing fairly. If our currency is worse off than that of the Yankees, it is mainly our own fault. We neither have credit abroad. If they support the credit of their Government and we do not support the credit of ours, then it is we who are to blame and not they.

The last Salisbury Watchman states that Captain GALTWAY, Commandant of the military prison at that place had placed under arrest Captain BRADSHAW, the Quartermaster at that post, the cause of arrest being the failure of Captain BRADSHAW to provide a Post House for small pox cases in the garrison. The disease is spreading, contrary to expectation. Captain BRADSHAW has since been released from arrest. Small pox seems to be spreading in many places throughout the Confederacy besides Wilmington.

At any other time perhaps, looking around for a subject of interest—a topic upon which to bang a few paragraphs, we might seize upon the recent death of THURGOOD, the novelist, and "improve the occasion" by a considerable amount of second-hand biography and very doubtful criticism. As the thing goes now, he may pass away with as few words as possible.

And yet it is painful to see these land marks disappear while we are engaged in a struggle for life or death. Few persons, of tolerable cultivation, but have looked and still do look upon the resumption of literary intercourse with the outside world as one of the blessings that a restoration of peace is to bring about. Our literary tastes and appetites have been omnivorous, and it must be confessed that since the war commenced the supply of pabulum has been rather of the meager sort, so that there exists a positive hunger. When the blockade is withdrawn and full intercourse restored, we will find many sources of intellectual supply cut off, perhaps for the better, if it only throws us back a little more on ourselves.

Mr. THACKERAY was a native of Calcutta, and in his 33d year.

From all the indications that float around, we should certainly be prepared to hear of some movement against Mobile; and that at an early day.

Placing little or no confidence in any statements of facts brought, or said to be brought, by passengers, we are aware that they are apt to carry with them the atmosphere of opinion existing in places whence they have come, or through which they have passed. We know that passengers from the South, especially from Mobile, have recently spoken of good of an anticipated attack upon Mobile, the difficulties of which would not doubt be great, but the fruits of success very tempting to the enemy. The sub section of the Confederacy which the capture of Mobile, and the consequent possession of the Alabama river would effect, could only be regarded as secondary to the loss of the Mississippi. A glance at any tolerable map will easily demonstrate this fact.

If the defenses of Mobile have been properly attended to, we feel confident of any attempt that the enemy can bring will be repelled. That unfortunate—

**WHITE FLAG.**—The first pair of white sails caught in the Cape Fear, which have made their appearance in our market, were offered yesterday at \$35, but had not been disposed of at last accounts.

We heard of a party yesterday which, however, was not in the market. We think it was said the owner wanted \$50 for them, but whether he got it or not, we did not learn. Last year HARRIS gave \$50 for the first pair of white sails he saw, and he was not far from the mark. They are obliging fish. They periodically run the blockade, and come past our doors in order that they may be taken and eaten.

## THE WRECK OF THE STEAMER VESTA. FULL AND INTERESTING PARTICULARS BY AN EYE WITNESS.

The following account of the wreck and destruction of the new and beautiful blockade runner Vesta, is taken from a letter written by Bahemian, a correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch, who was a passenger, returning from a trip across the deep blue sea:

\*\*\* Sunday, (Jan. 3d.) We were rapidly away as we lay off the town of St. Georges, steam was up, and everything in readiness for departure when the order should be given. It was a little after four o'clock before the anchor was weighed, but in a short time thereafter we were passing the town, winding among the hidden islands, down by the scowling black mouthed guns of the fortress, straight through the narrow pass which opened out into the broad Atlantic. On we went over the heaving waves, farther and farther from the fast receding shores; dusky night-heads gathered over the sea, deepening every moment, until the land grew dim and indistinct, and the "will wixd Bermooles" was far from our view. When the stars came out there was nothing but sky and water; and then our "h-meward bound" sea voyage was begun. Two days and nights of good sailing followed with scarcely a sail to turn us from the proper course. The third day out, however, our trouble began. The weather grew boisterous, the rough, and several sail were seen and ran from the next day, and the next, were both stormy, and the sun was not a moment visible. We had then reached the cruising grounds and were chased here and there in every direction.

The Vesta was a new iron steamer, with double engine, and was well fitted for blockade running. She had on board a valuable cargo belonging to the Government. Under full steam she could make twelve or fourteen knots, and I am confident the latter speed was made for two or three hours when chased by Yankee cruisers. A sailor ship to the Oeres, she was an admirable craft, and upon all occasions conducted herself with marked propriety and speed. We were all very comfortable, and our voyage was very pleasant. Saturday, January 9th, we had a serious chase, and were driven far to the Southwest before night came and gave us an opportunity of heading again towards the land. The weather expected to make before day—in time to run under the guns of Fort Fisher before it was light—but after running in till nearly sunrise no land appeared. We had gone too far during the chase to make the return distance in time. Heading out again, we ran some half an hour, and then, no cruisers being in sight, the engines were stopped and the ship was run under the guns of Fort Fisher before it was light—but after running in till nearly sunrise no land appeared. We had gone too far during the chase to make the return distance in time. Heading out again, we ran some half an hour, and then, no cruisers being in sight, the engines were stopped and the ship was run under the guns of Fort Fisher before it was light—but after running in till nearly sunrise no land appeared. We had gone too far during the chase to make the return distance in time. Heading out again, we ran some half an hour, and then, no cruisers being in sight, the engines were stopped and the ship was run under the guns of Fort Fisher before it was light—but after running in till nearly sunrise no land appeared. We had gone too far during the chase to make the return distance in time. 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